

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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**NORTON SOUND WINTER COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY TO CLOSE  
and SUMMER COMMERCIAL KING CRAB FISHERY GHL ANNOUNCED**

The 2012-2013 Norton Sound winter commercial king crab fishing season will end at noon, Wednesday, May 15. Catcher-sellers must turn in all fish tickets by Wednesday, May 22. Please remember to turn in all crab tags found, along with the associated legal size crab shell and capture information, to receive a crab tag reward.

Congratulations to Norton Sound commercial fishermen on the best winter crab season in our area's history. To date, the commercial catch this season of over 19,600 crabs is more than twice the previous record of 9,625 crabs caught during the first winter commercial season of 1977-78. Twenty-five of the registered 30 crabbers have made at least one delivery so far for a total of 443 landings, with average weight of 2.76 pounds per crab and a record average price of \$6.67 per pound.

For the summer commercial crab fishery, the department estimates a legal male red king crab biomass of 4.13 million pounds in Norton Sound. By Alaska Board of Fisheries regulation an exploitation rate not to exceed 15% is allowed when the legal male biomass exceeds 3 million pounds. The department has set the exploitation rate at 12% for the 2013 summer season. Therefore, the summer commercial fishery red king crab quota will be 495,600 pounds. Of this amount, 7.5 percent (37,170 pounds) is allocated for the CDQ fishery, with 458,430 pounds set for the open access portion of the fishery.

An opening date for the summer commercial king crab fishery has not yet been set. Depending on ice conditions and buyer readiness, the fishery can open at any time on or after June 15. For any questions regarding fishing please call Fish & Game in Nome at 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

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